Love Is...
1 John 3:16-18
Sermon Outline

A. The Blueprint (Vs. 16):

1. We know love by this:
   a) Knows – There is a complete understanding of the meaning of love when believers function in this manner.
   b) Knows – There is a comprehensive recognition of meaning of love when believers operate in this manner.
   c) Love – Love in this context is a willful decision to explicitly obey God’s Word when relating to someone else no matter what the circumstances maybe.
   d) Love – Love expressed in this manner is an unselfish compassionate to be concerned about someone else’s need.

2. Lay down; appointed – Love expressed in this manner is only going to happen when believers humble themselves.
3. Lay down; appointed – Love expressed in this manner only takes place when believers bring themselves below the needs of others.
4. Lay down; appointed – Lay down can also mean to put oneself in the position when not even being asked to serve the needs of others (to feel a sense of moral obligation). It is also mean to sense that this is one’s calling or appointment by God.
5. Lay down – To love creates a need for Christ and it is because of Christ.
6. His life; Soul – Christ was obedient to God even to the cross.
7. His life; Soul – Christ heartily laid down His life no matter the intense pain or torment He experienced. The will of God was greater than His own needs.
8. His life – Love can be painful because God’s purposes are always greater.
9. Ought – Because of Christ unselfish love we are now obligated to love other believers.
10. Our lives for the brethren - We must be committed to lay down our lives for others in the church just like Christ did (Philippians 2:1-6). It is His model we submit too while not reflecting on what others do or don’t do.
11. Brethren – This kind of love is focused on making the church community stronger and better.
B. True Love (Vs. 17-18):

1. Whoever has – Please note that whoever has is not worded ‘whoever continuously has a lot of the world’s goods.’
2. Whoever has – Love is not provided out of an abundance. It is out of obedience.
3. Whoever has – If a believer loves the world (1 John 2:15-17) it would be impossible for them to have the love described in verse 16 and it would therefore be impossible to submit to God’s guidance in verse 17 (Matthew 6:24; 19:16-30).
4. Whoever – Everyone must be committed to follow Christ example.
5. World goods – This is a person who is has the ability to help because of all that God blessed them to acquire.
6. Sees; Observing – To see means to continuously have a comprehensive detailed understanding, because of careful observation, of the needs of another believer.
7. Needs – The need that is observed is continuous and it is very necessary for the sustenance of the believer.
8. Sees the need – True love is ignited once the need is clearly understood.
9. Closes his heart – To close one’s heart is to once and for all raise up a barrier that is like literally slamming a door and locking it or like putting a person in jail and locking it. The meaning here is to willfully decide to refuse to do anything to help someone else. The high priest on the road to Jericho. The Jews building a road around Samaria.
10. Closes his heart – Notice John did not say close one’s mind. He said close one’s heart meaning to willfully decide to not to have any compassion (Philippians 2:1-2 – Paul makes reference to the need for the heart) or desire to help another believer who is in need.
11. Against him – The closing of the heart is deliberately directed to not help a fellow Christian.
12. How does the love? - If a believer can slam shut their heart to the need of another it demonstrates that there is no activity of God’s heart, explained in verse 16, taking place in them. This believer maybe born of God but they definitely does not know God (1 John 2:3-6; 4:7-8). They do not have an intricate interaction of the influence of the Holy Spirit actively functioning within them.
13. Love – The Holy Spirit does not control this believer’s life so that they experience the desire to willful decide to explicitly obey God’s Word no matter their own circumstances.
14. Love – Love expressed in this manner is an unselfish compassionate to be concerned about someone else’s need because of the influence of the Holy Spirit.
15. Abide; Remain – A person who can slam shut their heart when they have a clear view of someone’s need demonstrate that they do not have the continuous movement of the Holy Spirit upon their lives and this is why Christ does not answer their prayers (John 15:7).
13. **Love (vs. 18)** – This word is the word for agape love which stands above a friendship type love phileo.

14. **Love** – This agape love is purposeful because it represents a willful continuous decision to demonstrate compassion and affection towards someone as the Holy Spirit so directs.

15. **Love** – Agape love represents a self-sacrificial love that continuously looks out for what is best for others (Philippians 2:1-6).

16. **Love** – Agape love is produced only as a result of a relationship with Christ (Matthew 22:36-40) as directed by the Holy Spirit because love defines God’s nature and can only come from Him (1 John 4:7-10). Just like Jesus is the light, God is love.

17. **Word** – Using the Word of God or some intellectual thought pattern that sounds good to please the person.

18. **Let us not love with word** – To just intend to love is not love.

19. **Tongue** – Outward expressions with no inner feelings.

20. **But in deed** – An active, energetic acts of faith. It is not a single act but an accumulation of labor and continuous work (James 2:15-16). The objective reality of love is that it expresses itself in actions.

21. **But in deed** – Love is assertive focused on accomplishing the task ahead.

22. **And truth** – Love should be extended based on the reality of what is taking place as defined by the Word of God. The quality of truth is added because even actions can be hypocritical.

23. **And truth** – Love is not determined by one’s emotions but by one’s commitment to God.